

President's Message

On May 25th, Tom Mackay (NSW) and I attended a meeting of Affiliated Societies with the A.D.A. Federal Executive in Sydney. At this meeting we spoke to our agenda item 'continuing A.D.A. policy on dental therapists' and drew attention to some items in the A.D.A. policy document that were unacceptable to various state governments- e.g. dental therapists are no longer restricted to female personnel; and areas which were impracticable e.g. the exclusion of endodontic treatment on deciduous teeth. We were given a good hearing and most participating delegates seemed to agree with our proposals 'that a nucleus of dentists with post graduate qualifications in all facets of dentistry for children is needed both in the training and work field; and that a system of referral to a dentist during the period of treatment, and most importantly AFTER the period of treatment (at this stage on completion of primary school) in either the private or the public sector is absolutely imperative. However the A.D.A. executive pointed out that A.D.A. policy did not have a direct effect on the government of each state; also if we wished to change A.D.A. policy, we would need to submit a formal document setting out our views and the proposed changes. I trust that our new Executive (to be elected into office on June 28th) will do just that, as we speak for ALL facets of dentistry for children and must try to ensure that only first rate service is provided for the children of Australia.

Finally I have enjoyed my term of office as president of our society and wish to thank all members, most of whom I was fortunate enough to meet, for their support and encouragement.

John Keys

Notes from the Federal Secretary.

1. There was a meeting of Affiliated Societies and the A.D.A. in Sydney on Friday, May 25th; our Society was represented by Drs. John Keys and Tom Mackay.

2. The A.D.A. Federal Council, at its meeting on 29th-30th March, resolved 'that the offering of full or associate membership of affiliated societies to auxiliary dental personnel is opposed.

That the A.D.A. may support and encourage the formation of associations of auxiliary personnel, and that there should be close liaison between the A.D.A. and such associations.

3. The International Association of Dentistry for Children at its meeting on July 19th, in Budapest will be considering the adoption of a revised constitution.

Alistair Devlin

Victorian Branch.

Since the last Newsletter the Branch has held its second dinner meeting, with the theme, 'Nutrition and Dental Health in Children'. The Guest Speaker was Mrs. Betty Lynch, Chief Dietician at the Royal Children's Hospital, who spoke on nutrition from conception to preschool age, with a particular emphasis on dental health, in which she has a special interest. She recently has successfully finally convinced the manufacturers of Lactogen formula feed to exclude sucrose completely from its product, and to substitute lactose instead. Mrs. Lynch stressed particularly the importance of establishing sound feeding practices from the very beginning, and also the duty of dentists in this regard.

The 'mini-talk' was a dual presentation; the first by Mrs. Maritza Hall, a former School Dental Therapist now employed full-time by the Victorian Dairy Institute Authority in its development of 'Project Munch', a four-unit (book) nutritional programme for primary schools with one unit on Dental Health and another, interestingly, as a nutritional handbook for Canteen Managers. With much interest already shown in this programme, bright future looks assured and as Society members we have a duty to promote it as widely as possible. The second presentation was by Dr. John Matthews, a Melbourne dentist engaged in the A.D.A. Dental Health Education Committee's secondary school dental health programme now being taught in over 100 schools with emphasis on 'oral awareness' and 'nutrition'. It will be interesting to see how the secondary school version of 'Project Munch' will complement the A.D.A.'s efforts in nutritional and dental education in the schools in this state?

On the week-end prior to the Dinner Meeting a very successful 'Children's Dentistry Day' was presented and conducted by the Society at Warnambool, 300 km from Melbourne, at the invitation of the A.D.A. South-West Group. A number of ASDC members travelled down and enjoyed the 'practical approach' of the day, and enjoyed the local hospitality after.

The participation course in Child Dental Health run jointly by the Faculty of Dental Science and the Royal Dental Hospital was held this year from May 23-25, and Society members were busily involved in its operation.

On June 11th the branch will be staging its third 'One-Day Meeting', this year on 'Team Dentistry' and once more at the Therapy School. This will be reported on in the next newsletter.

Our next Dinner Meeting will be on July 5th, when our Guest Speaker will be a Speech Pathologist. The Mini-Talk on this occasion will be presented by husband and wife Society members, on 'Sedation techniques for children'.

John Wilde

Queensland Branch

At our Evening Meeting on April 2nd Dr. David H. McConnel, the Federal President of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists, spoke to members and guests of our Society. He discussed General Anaesthesia, giving its origin and uses with some of its inherent problems. The members were keen to discuss the effects that General Anaesthesia had on dentists and their staff. Dr. McConnel outlined the monitoring devices and the levels of anaesthetics in operating theatres.

Our next Evening Meeting is scheduled for June 4th.

A.H. Sahu Khan

New South Wales Branch.

Our last meeting held on 29th May was very well attended by both Society members and guests to hear Dr. Graham Craig talk on 'Changing Trends in Pedodontic Education'. Question time was brisk and lively, especially since the fluoride controversy flared up after the recent Four Corners programme on ABC Television. It appears that the South Coast town of Nowra has suspended its water fluoridation programme until the matter is decided by a referendum of all rate payers !!!

Federal President John Keys visited Sydney on 25th May for the A.D.A. Affiliated Societies meeting. The results of that meeting are reported elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Our member Dr. William J. Winspear M.D.S., in conjunction with Dr. Stella Dalton gave a panel presentation entitled 'Drug Abuse - A Dental Viewpoint' to A.D.A., NSW Branch General Meeting on May 22nd. Many of our members were present at this meeting and were rewarded with an excellent dissertation.

Tom Mackay

W.A. Branch.

The first meeting of the year was held on 18th April. The meeting was very well attended in view of the wintery weather. At the meeting, Associate Professor Des Kailis was elected as the W.A. Federal Councillor. He spoke to the meeting on graduate and post-graduate Paediatric Dentistry teaching in W.A., paying particular attention to the dramatic developments of the past two years.

The Guest Speaker was Dr. Brian Henderson. He gave a most practical outline of frequently performed Oral Surgical tasks for children. His relaxed delivery promoted much informal discussion, and all present were able to both learn and enjoy. He was supported by four members of the branch. Firstly, Drs. David Neesham and John Hands presented a 'Review of Oral Surgical Procedures as performed in the Public Health Department School of Dental Therapy'. This involved a look at the actual procedures and how often the various ones were performed, and then a look at a few specific cases of interest.

Branch President Dr. Lawrie Bartlett then presented an illustrated talk entitled 'The Ubiquitous Black Spoon'. This talk followed the Oral Surgery theme and Lawrie was able to outline how this instrument can be most useful for 'teasing out' the deciduous tooth or root without the need to resort to more conventional tooth removing instruments with their often daunting appearance and mode of use. The final contribution for the evening came from Dr. Alistair Devlin who presented a case of interest - a nine-year old boy with two anterior supernumeraries. One was a separate entity, the other was geminated with the left central incisor.

The next meeting will be on June 20th. The theme for that meeting will be 'Space Maintenance'. The Keynote Speaker will be the Orthodontist, Dr. Don Watson. He will be supported by Dr. Albert Tan, who will consider the Periodontium, especially in cases where space has not been maintained.

The Branch takes the opportunity to wish the S.A. Branch every success with the forthcoming Third Clinical Meeting of the A.S.D.C.

Alistair Devlin

Tasmanian Branch.

On Sunday, April 29th, a luncheon meeting was held at the Scotch Thistle Inn - Ross. On this occasion the Speaker was Dr. Felix Goldschmeid, and his subject was 'The Management of the Cleft Palate Patient'. As the subject matter was deemed to be relevant to all dental personnel, an invitation was extended to members of the Dental Therapists Association. Ten therapists accepted the invitation and attended for the luncheon - a most enjoyable social occasion - and the Guest Speaker's lecture.

The luncheon and Guest Speaker followed a short business meeting. Dr. Goldschmeid delivered an extremely informative talk, illustrated with some very good clinical slides. He exhibited a marked degree of interest and expertise in his subject, and demonstrated his ability to provide a very valuable service to these patients. He stressed the need for early detection of these cases and the establishment of good dental habits and attitudes. Patients and parents need to be aware that the surgical correction of the cleft is not the completion of treatment and that more can be done dentally - the ideal being the establishment of a Cleft Palate team to include such specialists as, Surgeon, Orthodontist, Speech Pathologist - in addition to the usual dental personnel. A lively question time followed which, in itself, demonstrated the degree of interest invoked by the Speaker - a most enjoyable and interesting meeting.

Dr. Frank Wimmer, our Federal Councillor, has indicated his intention to attend the third clinical meeting of the Society in Adelaide in June. We look forward to receiving his report, at our next meeting, which will be the Annual General Meeting, to be held in July at a venue and date yet to be decided.

Peter J. Bolster.

S.A. Branch.

At its meeting in April, the Guest Speaker was Mr. David David, a Plastic Surgeon, who has been involved very closely in reconstructions of Cleft Palates of children in the Adelaide Children's Hospital. Mr. David started his talk by emphasising that in the best interests of the patients, it was important for their problems to be dealt with on the basis of a 'Team' approach. He showed a series of slides showing some of the simple types of cleft and then progressed to the more bizarre clefts involving the orbit. With the assistance of vascular surgeon Mr. Eugene Tan, it seems that the Cleft Palate Clinic at the Children's Hospital is certainly among the leaders in this field in Australia.

- Third Clinical Meeting:- by now members of the Society will have had the Brochure on the Third Clinical Meeting. Remember, Professor Thomas Barber will be speaking only in Adelaide, so if you are waiting for him to visit your state you will miss out. If you have not registered yet, please hurry to avoid overloading our secretarial resources.

The social programme includes a dinner at the 'Jolly Swagman' in the Adelaide hills; private entertainment put on by our members in their homes to entertain interstate guests, and an all day trip to Martindale Hall - of 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' fame - in the Clare Valley, and then a lunch at Quelltaler Winery. Buses will be provided for the trip for the dinner at the 'Jolly Swagman' and also for the trip to the Clare district.

If you have lost your registration form or have a late entry please contact; Dr. John F. Burrow,

38 Howard Terrace,

Hazelwood Park. S.A. 5066

We look forward to seeing you all in Adelaide in June.

P.J.W. Verco.

3rd CLINICAL MEETING ADELAIDE JUNE 28-29.

Adelaide is looking forward to hosting this Third Biennial Meeting of the Society. We anticipate that around one hundred dentists will be attending the two-day meeting, and every state in the Commonwealth will be represented.

The international reputation of our Guest Speaker, Professor Thomas Barber, has drawn a couple of overseas dentists to the meeting, including one from South Africa.

If any member who has not already registered but would like to attend the meeting would let me know as quickly as possible, as we are holding two or three rooms at the Gateway Inn for just a few more days.

John Burrow,
Organizing Secretary